

Note on the Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter observed in Australia,
1892 February 6. By A. Marth.

Mr. Russell, the Director of the Sydney Observatory, has been good enough to send me some letters which he has received referring to the conjunction of *Venus* and *Jupiter* on February 6. The weather in general seems to have been unfavourable. At Sydney "a dense mantle of cloud blotted out the planets the whole evening." But in some parts of New South Wales the sky has been more propitious and very clear.

At Gara Station, about ten miles from Armidale (lat. $30^{\circ} 32'$ S., long. $151^{\circ} 38'$ E.), Mr. R. P. Sellors and a party of friends saw the planets separate till about $7^{\text{h}} 35^{\text{m}}$ Sydney M. T., but by $7^{\text{h}} 45^{\text{m}}$ they appeared as one.

At Monteagle, Bathurst, Mr. J. B. Dulhunty and a party of friends watched the two planets approaching conjunction, and at $7^{\text{h}} 40^{\text{m}}$ Sydney M. T. could not tell whether they did not appear to the naked eye as one star.

The distances between the rim of *Jupiter* and the nearest edge of the illuminated disc of *Venus* at the two times recorded at Gara Station were $98''$ and $74''$, so that the distance of the two edges at which the eyes of Mr. Sellors and his friends ceased to separate the two planets is between these limits.

*Preliminary Address of the General Committee of the World's
Congress Auxiliary on Mathematics and Astronomy.*

The following circular has been received from Professor G. E. Hale:—

"The World's Congress Auxiliary is an organisation maintained by the World's Columbian Exposition, and approved by the Government of the United States, for the purpose of organising a series of Congresses or Conventions to be held during the progress of the Exposition in 1893, and which will bring together the leading scholars of the world for the mutual interchange of ideas on topics bearing on human progress.

"A scientific Congress to present and consider investigations in its special lines of research from all parts of the world, cannot fail to exert an important influence in the progress of scientific development. The personal interchange of views in regard to methods of observation and investigation will undoubtedly be productive of mutual benefit to the members of the Congress, as well as of lasting value to science.

“The General Committee on Mathematics and Astronomy presents this Preliminary Address, cordially inviting the co-operation of all persons and societies interested in this department of physical science.

“As the matter assigned to this committee covers a large field in physical science, it has been thought advisable to arrange the subjects to be considered under the following chapters and sections, in which, in consideration of its recent development and growing importance, astro-physics has been assigned a separate chapter from other branches of general astronomy.

“The following are some of the topics suggested for consideration under the several chapters:—

“CHAPTER I.—*Pure Mathematics*. Section *a*, History and Bibliography; Section *b*, Arithmetic and Theory of Numbers; Section *c*, Analysis; Section *d*, Geometry; Section *e*, Analytical Mechanics; Section *f*, Mathematical Physics.

“CHAPTER II.—*Astronomy*. Section *a*, History of Astronomy; Section *b*, Astronomical Instruments; Section *c*, Methods of Observation; Section *d*, Physical Astronomy; Section *e*, Observatory Buildings.

“CHAPTER III.—*Astro-physics*. Section *a*, Spectrum Analysis; Section *b*, Astronomical Photography; Section *c*, Stellar Photometry.

“The object of this Preliminary Address is simply to bring the subject of the Congress to the notice of the scientific men of the world for advice and suggestions as to the general conduct of the convention, and in particular as to the scientific questions to be discussed. Recommendations of themes to be discussed and of persons to present them are especially solicited from the members of the Advisory Council of the Astronomical Congress. The Advisory Councils constitute the non-resident branches of the Auxiliary Committees. Additions to these Councils will be made from time to time. Communications may be addressed to the Chairman of the General Committee, or to the Chairman of the proper Special Committee.

“It is expected that men eminent in special lines of research will be invited to furnish papers on the leading topics under consideration. The suggestions and recommendations invited will be used in the formation of the programme for the Congress.

“The Chairmen of the Special Committees of the several chapters under the charge of the General Committee are as follows:—

“*On Pure Mathematics*: Professor E. H. Moore, Chicago University, Chicago, Ill.

" *On Astronomy*: Professor G. W. Hough, Dearborn Observatory, North-western University, Evanston, Ill.

" *On Astro-physics*: Professor Geo. E. Hale, Kenwood Astrophysical Observatory, Chicago, Ill.

" George W. Hough, Chairman.

" Elias Colbert, Vice-Chairman.

" E. H. Moore.

" George E. Hale.

" G. A. Douglas.

" Malcolm McNeill.

" R. W. Pike.

" Geo. C. Comstock.

" W. W. Payne.

" Committee of the World's Congress Auxiliary on a Congress of Mathematicians and Astronomers.

" *World's Congress Headquarters, Chicago, March 1892.*"

Erratum in Annual Report February 1892.

The Mr. Henry Lord Boulton, of Carácas, Venezuela, whose death was recorded among the obituaries of Fellows who had died during the year 1891 (*Monthly Notices*, vol. lii. page 212), was not a Fellow of the Society. His son, also Mr. Henry Lord Boulton, of the same address, was elected 1889 January 11.